

a first cryptographic module coupled to the storage device, the first cryptographic module including a first key to decrypt a user authentication key included in the user account, the user authentication key being used to authenticate the user; and

a second cryptographic module coupled to the storage device, the second cryptographic module including a second key to decrypt a token key included in the meter account, the token key used to generate a digital token, the second cryptographic key further including a third key used to sign a transaction record associated with generating the digital token, the signed transaction record being stored in the storage device;

wherein the data center sends the digital token to the remote processor via the network.

10. The system according to claim 9, wherein the data center further comprises:

a third cryptographic module coupled to the storage device, the third cryptographic module including a fourth key used to sign a user transaction record, the user transaction record being stored in the storage device.

11. The system according to claim 10, wherein the first, second, third and fourth keys are identical.

12. The system according to claim 9, wherein the data center further comprises:

a key management system to manage the first, second and third keys.

13. The system according to claim 9, wherein the network is the Internet.

14. A method for performing a postage evidencing transaction comprising the steps of:

receiving at a data center a request for postage evidencing from a remote computer, the request including information related to a mailer;

providing a first record associated with the mailer stored in the data center to a first cryptographic module at the data center, the first cryptographic module using a first key to decrypt a user authentication key included in the first record, the user authentication key being used to authenticate the mailer;

providing a second record to a second cryptographic module at the data center, the second cryptographic module using a second key to decrypt a token key included in the second record, the second cryptographic module using the token key to generate a digital token, the second cryptographic module further generating a transaction record associated with generating the digital token;

using a third key to sign the transaction record;

storing the signed transaction record at the data center; and

sending the digital token to the remote computer to be included as postage evidence on a mailpiece.

15. The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

generating a user transaction record each time a user accesses the data center;

signing the user transaction record with a fourth key; and

storing the signed user transaction record at the data center.

16. The method according to claim 15, further comprising:

verifying the user transaction record when a next transaction is requested.

17. The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

providing value added services to the mailer, the value-added service including at least one of on-line rating, special mail services, address cleansing and postal coding services.

*APD* 18. The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

providing on-line tracking of all postal transaction processed by the data center.

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